

CLAIMS

1. An immunoglobulin light chain binding protein which comprises:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 modified by an amino acid substitution at one or more of positions 39, 53 and 57 and/or by an amino acid insertion between positions 59 and 60 such that the dissociation constant (K_d) of the protein with respect to human immunoglobulin κ -chain is 400 nM or more at pH8, or
- (b) the amino acid sequence of a corresponding immunoglobulin light chain binding domain modified by an amino acid substitution at one or more of the positions equivalent to positions 39, 53 and 57 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or by an amino acid insertion between positions equivalent to positions 59 and 60 of SEQ ID NO: 1, such that the dissociation constant (K_d) of the protein with respect to human immunoglobulin κ -chain is 400 nM or more at pH8, or
- (c) the amino acid sequence of a fragment of (a) or (b) which contains at least one said substitution and/or insertion, such that the dissociation constant (K_d) of the protein with respect to human immunoglobulin κ -chain is 400 nM or more at pH 8.
2. A protein according to claim 1 which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 having a tryptophan residue at position 39 and/or a phenylalanine residue at position 53 and/or an aspartic acid or histidine residue at position 57.
3. A solid support to which an immunoglobulin light chain binding protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 is attached.
4. Use of an immunoglobulin light chain binding protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 in immunoaffinity chromatography.
5. A polynucleotide which encodes an immunoglobulin light chain binding protein as defined in claim 1 or 2.
6. An expression vector which incorporates a polynucleotide as defined in claim 5 operably linked to a promoter.

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7. A process for the preparation of an immunoglobulin light chain binding protein as defined in claim 1, which process comprises cultivating a cell transformed with an expression vector as defined in claim 6 under conditions that allow expression of the said protein; and recovering the said protein.

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